

PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,303
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph on page 2, between lines 22-29 of the specification with the following:

~~As~~ A variant of the method according to the invention is characterized in that the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level. This provides a very intuitive relationship between ratings of the first and second level, respectively. For example, if half of the ratings of the second level express a preference and the other ratings of the second level express a dislike, one would intuitively expect a fairly neutral rating at the first level, which is indeed achieved by averaging the ratings of the second level.

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PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

Replace the paragraph on page 2, between lines 30-33 of the specification with the following:

An A variant of the method according to the invention is characterized in that the method further comprises a step of visually representing a rating by means of a color. This provides a more convenient and appealing way of representing ratings than just numerical values. This maybe applied, for example, in the graphical user interface of an electronic program guide, to color program data in accordance with their ratings.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 10-28 of the specification with the following:

Figure 1 shows a diagram of a TV-set as an apparatus embodying the invention. TV signals are received from ~~the ether by~~ an antenna 1 or, alternatively, from a cable network. One of the TV signals is selected by a tuner 2, decoded and split into an audio signal, a video signal and a data signal. The audio signal is further processed by an audio processor 3 and a loudspeaker 4. The video signal is further processed by a video processor 5 and presented on

PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

a screen 6. The data signal is transmitted to a central processing unit (hereinafter "CPU") 8, which comprises one or more microprocessors capable of executing program instructions stored in a read-only memory (hereinafter "ROM") 14. These program instructions comprise parts of software modules including, inter alia, a user command module 9, an EPG module 10 and a profile module 11, which may be operating simultaneously in the CPU 8. Data processed by said software modules, e.g. EPG data and user profile information, may be stored in a non-volatile memory 13. The CPU 8 is capable of controlling functions of the TV-set and transmitting data to the video processor 5 to be presented on the screen 6. A user control unit 12, for example a remote control, receives user commands, and transmits them to the CPU 8 to be processed by the user command module 9. For example, when the user enters a channel number the CPU 8 controls the tuner 2 to select the corresponding channel, and sends data to the video processor 5 to present feedback on the screen 6, e.g. the preset number, the channel name and the program category being displayed for a few seconds.

PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of rating database objects, comprising:

- categorizing the objects into a plurality of categories;
- rating at least one of said categories;
- arranging the categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level; and
- computing by a user profile module a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

3. (Previously Presented) A method as defined as defined in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a step of visually representing a rating by means of a color.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the objects are programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level are genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for processing database objects, said objects being categorized into a plurality of

PATENT
Serial No. 09/304,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

categories, the apparatus comprising:

user profile means for rating at least one of said categories, wherein the user profile means are further adapted to arrange said categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and to compute a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile means are adapted to visually represent a rating by means of a color.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 9,

PATENT
Serial No. 09/304,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

12. (Previously Presented) A broadcast receiver as an apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said objects being programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level being genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for performing, when executed on a programmable computing device, the steps of the method as defined in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) adapted to process a plurality of database objects, wherein the objects are categorized into a

PATENT
Serial No. 09/304,003
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

plurality of categories;

a user profile module adapted to rate at least one of the plurality of categories, wherein the user profile module is adapted to arrange the plurality of categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and to compute a rating of each of the plurality of categories of the first level as a function of ratings of plurality of categories of the respective second level.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the rating of the first level of categories is an average of the ratings of respective plurality of categories of the second level.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile module is adapted to visually represent the ratings by colors.

PATENT
Serial No. 09/804,003

Amendment in Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the first and the second levels of categories are displayed on the display screen.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the display screen is adapted to display a connection indicator, which connects a category of one of the first level of categories to one of the second level of categories.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, further comprising memory adapted to store user profile information.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, further comprising an electronic program guide (EPG) module adapted to display programs on a screen, wherein the ratings of the plurality of second categories are included in the displayed programs.